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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Theaters, Opera and Cinemas

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Opera

1. "The State Opera (Opera de Stat) is now located in a new building on Blv. 6 Martie, on the same side of the street as, and immediately beyond, the University of Law (Facultatea de Drept). Construction of the building was completed in July 1953, and the Opera was moved into the new building a few days before the IVth Youth Festival. The former auditorium, of the State Opera, which was in the Queen Mary Theater on Splaiul Independentei, is still used by the Opera, but only as a warehouse and workshop.
2. "During the winter season, an opera performance starts at 1930 hours, and ends at about 2230 hours. During the summer, performances start at 2000 hours, ending at about 2300 hours. Also during the summer, showings are held in Freedom Park (Parcul Libertatii, which is the former King Carol I Park), in the Roman Arena (Arenele Romane). Tickets for the public, not in the field of labor, are sold at the State Ticket Re-sale Company, called G.E.S. (which replaces the former AGES), located on Academiei Street almost opposite the (formerly private) Trocadero Restaurant. [redacted] the name was changed, and [redacted] the Agency's offices were transferred from Blv. 6 Martie to the above address. Prices of

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tickets follow:

	<u>LEI</u>
1st Category Box (Loja rang 1-U), per seat	15.00
2nd Category Box, per seat	12.00
1st Category seats (Fotoliu 1), each	10.00
2nd Category seats, each	8.00
Balcony seat (Galerie), each	6.00

3. "There is a Committee for Culture and Arts within the Council of Ministers; this Committee directs all cultural activities in Rumania. (Opera singers are a privileged caste; they make 3000 Lei a month, which, compared to the average workers' salaries of 500 Lei per month, is very high.)
4. "Theaters: [for location of new theaters, see Enclosure A]. Theaters are open during the winter season. The afternoon show, called Matine, is from 1600 to 1900 hours; the evening show is from 1900 to 2230 hours for the National theaters, and from 2000 to 2300 hours for all other theaters. Tickets are sold to the public not in the field of labor, either at the G.E.S. State Ticket Re-sale Agency, or at the theater ticket booths. (The same procedure holds true for the State Opera). Prices of tickets follow:

	<u>LEI</u>
1st Category Box, per seat	9.00
2nd Category Box, per seat	7.00
1st Category seats, (Fotoliu I), each	6.50
2nd Category seats, each	5.00
Balcony seats (Stal), each	4.00

5. "Circus: There is an established circus in Bucharest, called 'Kratel', and still privately owned; it is located on Blv. N. Balcescu just beyond the Cooperative for the Repair of Radios - 'Progresul'. Circus performances run from 1600 to 1900 hours on Sundays, and nightly from 2000 to 2300 hours. Prices are 5.00, 7.00, and 9.00 Lei per seat.
6. "Cinemas: [for location see Enclosure B, listing new names of moving picture theaters] There are three categories of cinema theaters, the category being determined by location. Most of the cinemas, especially those along Blv. 6 Martie, have morning showings from 1000 to 1200 hours. Most of the principal theaters in Bucharest have morning shows on Sundays and holidays. Afternoon shows start at 1500 hours, and the last show of the evening starts at 2100 hours, ending at approximately 2230 hours. Performances are not continuous as they were in the past. The sale of a ticket at the ticket booth is made for a specific seat at a specific showing. At the end of a show the entire audience leaves the auditorium, and the next audience comes in. Prices of tickets are indicated below, per category of theater:

	<u>1st Category</u>	<u>2nd Category</u>	<u>3rd Category</u>
Orchestra and balcony (center aisle), per seat	3.00	2.25	----
Orchestra and balcony (side aisle) per seat	2.50	2.00	----
Per seat, regardless of location * (*this exists only in 3rd Category theaters)	----	----	1.25

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7. "Additional Information: The sale of tickets for theater and State Opera takes place through the G.E.S. Agency. The Cultural Delegates of the State Enterprises buy large numbers of tickets for the Enterprise employees from the G.E.S. Agency, and then sell the tickets to employees at the institution. Prices are the same as usual, but the better seats are reserved for this body of people. Actually, the G.E.S. reserves only about 10 per cent of the seats for theater or opera performances, for the general public. The rest of the seats are filled by State Enterprise employees. The ordinary citizen, not in the field of labor, is forced to line up early Monday morning at the G.E.S. Agency if he wants a seat. People having friends in a State Enterprise often procure tickets through their friends, in order to get better seats. There is a flourishing black market for sale of tickets, especially for operas by Western composers; for example, such performances as: 'Tosca', 'Lady of Spade', 'Pagliacci' and 'Gavelleria Rusticana', are very popular. Even laborers are eager to see these operas, so tickets are very scarce.
8. "After Stalin's death, motion pictures of Soviet origin shown in the Capital had a new slant. Censorship no longer prohibited the filming of kissing, or of love scenes. This had never occurred in past Soviet films. Among the foreign motion pictures shown in Bucharest, were: the British 'Hamlet', 'Love Elixir' (Elixirul Dragostei) and 'There is no Peace Under Olive Trees' (Nu e Pace Sub Maslini), two Italian films directed by Vittorio de Sica, a well-known Italian left-winger. In the Fall of 1953, a Hungarian film called 'State Store' (Magazinul de Stat) was shown in Bucharest. The story pertained to a panic created by speculative rumors of an alleged monetary reform; it also involved a love story.
9. "In the Fall of 1952 the Soviet-Rumanian Motion Picture Agency, Sovrofilm, was renamed Rom-Film (Rumanian Film). The main offices of Rom-Film are located on Blv. Alexandru Spahia (formerly Soseaua Jianu), near the I.V. Stalin Park, opposite the Studioul Cinematografic Alexandru Sahia (Motion Picture Studio - Alexandru Sahia). In the Fall of 1953, studios were completed, occupying two large two-story buildings. They were built on Platoul Floreasca near the Floreasca lake. The studios always needed silent character actors, who were paid 25 Lei per day, and were required to present a curriculum vitae before being accepted for a part. Only persons with a certain social origin were acceptable.
10. "An entrance fee of 0.50 Lei is charged in the Culture and Rest Park - I.V. Stalin, and in Freedom Park. There is no entrance fee in Cismigiu Park on Blv. Schitu Magureanu. All three parks have lakes; but only the I.V. Stalin Park has a natural lake.
11. "In the Spring of 1953, a Soviet Zone German fair was held on Blv. Gen. Magheru, opposite the CCA Theater. It was scheduled for a month, but lasted only 15 days due to the enormous crowds which attended to see the displays. In the past, Soviet fairs were so poorly attended that State workers were made to go. In this case, the objects on display at the fair (for instance, optical and surgical implements, household goods, lathes, linotypes, binoculars, etc.), were of such obviously high caliber as to outshine Soviet products shown at past fairs."

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Enclosures: A: Listing of Theaters
B: Listing of Cinemas.

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Enclosure A: Listing of Theaters in Bucharest.

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National Theater 'Vasile Alecsandri' - Gen. Berthelot Street
National Theater 'Studio' - 1 May Square (formerly Anzei Square)
National Theater 'Ion Caragiale' (formerly 'Comedia' Theater) - in the
Pasajul Modern, which connects Calea Victoriei and Academiei Street
'Orfeu' Theater - in the Pasajul Modern. This theater is reserved for
showings to high Government officials
Army theaters, or CCA Theaters:
- Blv. Gen. Magheru
- Calea 13 Septembrie
- Uranus Street
(Note: the CCA Theater once located under the CCA house, is now a
restaurant for MFA, MBS, and MAI officers and their families.)
'O. Notara' Theater (formerly Maria Filoti Theater) - Sarindari Street
'Municipal' Theater - Blv. Schitu Magureanu (?), almost opposite the former
'Omnia' Cinema, now an I.C.S. - Pionierul State Store.
Workers' Theater 'C.F.R.-Giulesti' (of the Rumanian State Railways) -
Bocalea Giulesti Street
'Teatrul de Vara' - in I. V. Stalin Park, opened only during the summer.
'Teatrul de Estrada' (comic theater ^{USG} /sig/), the former Alhambra Theater -
Postei Street, behind the Main Post Office.
'Teatrul de Estrada', occupying the former Savoy Theater - Victoriei Street,
in line with the Telephone Building.
'Atlantis' Theater - in the Dragonair Building; used for MAI forces only.

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Enclosure B: Listing of Cinemas in Bucharest:

Patria (Aro) - Gen. Magheru Blv.
Republica (Scala) - Gen. Magheru Blv.
I. C. Frimu (Capital) - Blv. 6 Martie
Timpuri Noi (Bulevard Palace) - Blv. 6 Martie
Maxim Gorki (Regal) - Blv. 6 Martie
Lumina (Femina) - Blv. 6 Martie
CCA (ARPA) - Blv. 6 Martie
Bucuresti (Trianon) - Blv. 6 Martie
Victoria (Forum) - Blv. 6 Martie
Gradina Maxim Gorki (Vox) - Blv. 6 Martie
Gradina Progresul (new cinema) - Blv. 6 Martie
(Former) Luxor, used now only for high PMR Party members - Xenopol Street.
(Former) Excelsior, used only for MSS forces - Academiei Street, opposite
the 'Atlantis' Theater.
Timpuri Noi (Select) - Calea Victoriei, opposite the Telephone Building
Model - Ilie Pintilie Square
Marna - Calea Grivitei, at the corner of Buzesti Street
Volta Buzesti - Buzesti Street
Marconi - Calea Grivitei
Lia - Calea Grivitei, at the corner of Blv. Basarab
Grand - Grand Bridge on Calea Grivitei
1 Mai (Kisselef) - Blv. 1 Mai
Volga (Roata Lumii) - Blv. Ilie Pintilie, at the corner of Calea Dorobanti
Gloria - Calea Vacaresti
Izbanda - Calea Vacaresti
Rahova - Calea Rahovei
Libertatii (Odeon) - Libertatii Square, opposite the park.
Mosilor (American) - Calea Mosilor at the corner of Vaselor Street
Miorita - Blv. Republicei, at the corner of Calea Mosilor
Donca Simu (formerly Avrig and Florida) - Avrig Street
(Former) Casandra Cinema - 30 December Street (ex Carol), is a meeting hall
of the T. Vladimirescu City Sector.

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